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ABSTRACT

This book takes a detailed look at the nature and extent of the Invisible Web, and offers pathfinders for accessing the valuable information it contains. It is designed to fit the needs of both novice and advanced Web searchers. Chapter One traces the development of the Internet and many of the early tools used to locate and share information via the Internet. Chapter Two examines the two predominant Web search services: search engines and Web directories. Chapter Three discusses alternative search tools for locating information that, while not part of the Invisible Web, is still difficult if not impossible to find using general-purpose search engines and directories. Chapter Four defines the Invisible Web, and delves into the reasons why search engines can't "see" its content. Chapter Five focuses on how to recognize Invisible Web content. Chapter Six discusses why and when to use the Invisible Web to make Web searching time more efficient by selecting the best available search tool for each particular task. Chapter Seven presents eight scenarios that demonstrate both the power of Invisible Web resources, and why general-purpose search tools fail at finding the materials used in the examples. Chapter Eight takes a brief look at some of the more interesting approaches and projects likely to illuminate portions of the Invisible Web in coming years. The directory section of the book begins with Chapter Nine, which describes a number of pathfinder sites that provide links to high-quality Invisible Web content. The remaining chapters make up a directory of more than 1,000 Invisible Web sites selected by the authors. Each chapter focuses on a specific topic or subject to help in quickly pinpointing the resources needed for a wide range of information needs. This directory is available online at http://www.invisible-web.net and is continually updated to include new Invisible Web resources as they are located. (Contains an index and 27 references.) (AEF)

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